

displayed in positions more distant from the specified information **300**, **800**, **1100**, may be more suppressed in pictorial aspects such as, for example, a color, a tone and a resolution. In case that moving information such as an animation is applied as display information, it is also acceptable to configure the information display and selection in such a way that information displayed in a position more distant from the specified information **300**, **800**, **1100** is more slowly reproduced. Otherwise, it is also acceptable to configure the display and selection in such a way that items of information other than the specified information **300**, **800**, **1100** are stationary. It is also acceptable to configure the display and selection in such a way that a setting of a display condition of these items of information can be switched by a user's operation. In this case, it becomes possible for the user to select items of information in a desired display condition, and it becomes easier to select a desired item of information.

[0200] In the first to third embodiments, any of the specified information, other items of information relating to the specified information via the selected relation criterion, and other items of information relating to the specified information via other relation criteria, other than the selected relation criterion, are constantly displayed on the display device **105**. However, only an item of information selected as the specified information at the present time may be displayed on the display device **105**, while other items of information may be displayed on the display device **105** as necessary.

[0201] FIGS. **13A** to **13C** are diagrams showing modified examples of a display mode of information selectively displayed on the display device **105**. As shown in FIG. **13A**, specified information **1300** (here, information A) and a relation criterion **1310** (here, for example, a relationship a to a relationship z), which relates the information A servings as the specified information **1300** to other items of information, are displayed on the display device **105**. By operating the up or down direction keys of the input device **104** and moving a cursor **1320**, any relation criterion can be selected from among the relationship a to the relationship z. In the example shown in FIG. **13A**, an input from the left or right direction keys is cancelled.

[0202] When, for example, an input from the circle button of the input device **104** is carried out in the non-limiting example of FIG. **13A**, as shown in FIG. **13B**, with the information A remaining displayed as the specified information **1300**, items of information B, C and D, relating to the information A via the relationship a, are displayed as items of information **1330** to **1332** relating to the specified information **1300**. The information **1330** in the center is information to be selected next as the specified information **1300** in response to an input from the circle button of the input device **104**.

[0203] When the left or right direction keys of the input device **104** are operated in the non-limiting example of FIG. **13B**, the information contents of the information **1330**, which is to be selected next as the specified information, and the items of information **1331** and **1332** adjacent to the information **1330** are changed in accordance with the input. For example, when an input is carried out from the right direction key, the information **1330** to be selected next as the specified information is changed to the information C. When, for example, an input from the X-button of the input

device **104** is carried out in the example of FIG. **13B**, the information display mode of the display device **105** can be returned to the exemplary non-limiting display configuration shown in FIG. **13A**.

[0204] When an input from the circle button of the input device **104** is carried out in the exemplary configuration of FIG. **13B**, as shown in FIG. **13C**, the information B serving as the information **1330** is changed to the specified information **1300**, and the information A serving as the specified information **1300** is changed to the information **1330** to be selected next as the specified information. Also, the information contents of the items of information **1331** and **1332** may also be changed along with this change. When, for example, an input from the triangle button of the input device **104** is carried out in the condition of FIG. **13C**, the information display mode of the display device **105** can be returned to the condition shown in FIG. **13B**. Also, when, for example, an input from the X-button of the input device **104** is carried out in the example shown in FIG. **13C**, the specified information **1300** (here, for example, the information B) and the relation criterion **1310** (here, for example, the relation criterion which relates the information B to other items of information), which are same as those shown in FIG. **13A**, are displayed on the display device **105**.

[0205] In the first to third embodiments, items of information to be displayed on the display device **105** are stored in advance in the HDD **103**. However, items of information to be displayed on the display device **105** may be, for example, an electronic program guide (EPG), which are stored in a server device existing on the Internet, a local area network (LAN), a wide area network (WAN), or the like, and wherein the various components are coupled wirelessly or through wired configurations, as the skilled artisan will readily recognize. Also, the items of information may be stored dispersed on a plurality of server devices. At this point, in the third embodiment, they can be stored dispersed for each of the items of information **1010**, **1020**, . . . and **1030** but, in the second embodiment, they can be stored dispersed for each of the information packages **701** to **707**.

[0206] Also, when searching for information as in the second and third embodiments, information indicating the changed specified information **800**, **1100** may be transmitted from the communication device **106** to the server device on the Internet using a function included in the server device, each time the specified information **800**, **1100** is changed, and other items of information to be displayed (which, in the third embodiment, also include items of information lying outside the display area) may be received from the server device. When only the selected relation criterion changes, as no change occurs in the type of the information to be displayed, it is not necessary to receive information from the server device.

[0207] In the case that information existing on the Internet is applied as the information to be displayed in this way, information that can be displayed on the display device **105** may be limited for each information processing apparatus or for each user. In this case, the information that can be displayed may be limited by the information processing apparatus, or it may be limited by the server device. In this case, display information to be displayed on the display device **105** may be limited by a user's age, a presence or absence of registration in a system, or the like.